

Ann. des Sci. Nat. 1864, t. 4. f. 2). It appears to be common to the species of the genus *Tragulus*, but, I believe, does not occur in the genus *Meminna*. M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards (*loc. cit.* t. 10. f. 7) figures the pelvis of that animal without any bony disk.

April 8, 1869.

Dr. E. Hamilton, V.P., in the Chair.

A communication was read from Dr. George Bennett, F.Z.S., dated Sydney, January 26th, enclosing a copy of an article upon the Tuatera Lizard (*Sphenodon punctatum**) of New Zealand, contributed by him to the 'Sydney Herald' of January 19th, which was read to the Meeting. It appeared from this article that so recently as December 1851 this Lizard was abundant in one of the islands in the Bay of Plenty, in New Zealand. The island in question was stated to be one of four small volcanic islands, distant about eight miles from the coast and situated opposite to the mouth of the Wakataane river. The party of officers who visited it upon the occasion in question are stated to have collected in half an hour nearly forty of these Lizards of different sizes, varying from two feet long to three inches. They stated that the island seemed to be swarming with them and with another Lizard called the Moko-moko (*Tiliqua zealandica*). In the daytime these Lizards are seen basking themselves in the sun on the bare rocks. Noon is therefore the best time to visit the island. It was stated that there were four small islands, on two of which Tuateras are found. They are called Rurima and Montoki. The largest is about half a mile in circumference at high water. They are all of volcanic origin, and are scantily covered with soil, but it is sufficient to grow a few of the most hardy New-Zealand shrubs and creepers, among the latter of which was observed the delicate flower of the Pohne or Panapa (*Calystegia sepium*), the long fleshy root of which was formerly a source of food to the New Zealander. There was no fresh water on the island but what was contained in the crevices of rocks from rain.

The following papers were read:—

1. Note on *Pachybatrachus robustus*.

By ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.Z.S. &c.

I had the honour to read before the Zoological Society on the 12th of November, 1868, a paper which was published in the

* Olim *Hatteria punctata*. Cf. Gray, Ann. Nat. Hist. 4th ser. vol. iii. p. 167 (1869).—P. L. S.

Society's 'Proceedings' for the same year (page 557). In that paper I described a new Frog, which I proposed to name *Pachybatrachus robustus*. I now find that, by a singular coincidence, the very same generic term was applied about the same time by Professor W. Keferstein, M.D., of Göttingen, to another new Batrachian. This appears in the third number of the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' for 1868, where, at page 273, Professor Keferstein has published a description of his *Pachybatrachus*. I therefore beg leave to withdraw the name which I before gave, and to substitute for it the more appropriate term *Clinotarsus*. I propose therefore that my new Frog should bear the name CLINOTARSUS ROBUSTUS.

2. Observations on *Lepus americanus*, especially with reference to the Modifications in the Fur consequent on the rotation of the Seasons, and the Change of Colour on the advent of Winter; based on Specimens obtained in the province of New Brunswick, North America. By FRANCIS H. WELCH, Assistant-Surgeon, 1st Battalion, 22nd Regiment*.

This species is the sole representative of the *Leporidae* in the province of New Brunswick. In the List of Mammalia of the Portland Natural-History Society it is called the "White Hare," and in the 'New York Fauna,' by De Kay, the "Northern Hare." It is also termed the "American Varying Hare," and was for a long time confounded with the *L. variabilis* of Europe. Its geographical range appears as yet undetermined. According to Sir John Richardson it "is found as far north as 64° 30', Fort Enterprise, forming the staple food and clothing of the Hare Indians on the banks of the Mackenzie River." Its southerly limits are given by De Kay as "the northern parts of Pennsylvania and the mountain-tops of the northern part of Virginia." Of the many species of *Leporidae* inhabiting the North-American continent, it appears to be the only one that undergoes a complete change of colour during the winter †,—the Greenland Hare remaining white during the whole year, *L. nanus* becoming of a lighter hue, and occasionally iron grey, during the winter months, and *L. glacialis* assuming occasionally in the adult a greyish tint during the summer, limited to the points of the hair, the deeper parts remaining white permanently, the young, however, being horn grey, and changing to white on the advent of winter ‡. Its weight varies—in its southernmost limits reaching 6½ lbs.; in New Brunswick averaging 3 lbs.; in Hudson's Bay Territory 4 lbs.

* Communicated by Mr. G. Busk, F.R.S.

† *i. e.* provided the *L. campestris* be only a variety of *L. americanus*, as stated by Sir J. Richardson, but denied by Baird.

‡ Fauna Boreali-Americana.